



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIGEST

Internet Edition

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'Courteous Vigilance'

October 2004



Ground support

When President George W. Bush arrived in Phoenix aboard Air Force One Aug. 11, DPS motorcycle officers were there to provide escort to Veterans' Memorial Coliseum. Prior to the president's departure the next day, the officers gathered for a group photo with the famed presidential plane in the background. Kneeling (from left) are Sgt. Ken Goodall, Lt. Tim Lane, Sgt. Larry Kenyon and Sgt. Karl Goldsmith. Standing are Motor Officers Jason Knox, Jim Fleming, Joel Martin, Jim Bullard, Eric Barcello, Mike Beaudoin, Herb Groll, Carrie Stubblefield, Chad Johnson, Dan Roark, Kelly Sullivan, Pete White, Raul Garcia, Tom Simon, Troy Titzer and Enrique Artelejo.

State attorney general advises officers to check body armor

Arizona Atty. Gen. Terry Goddard warned law enforcement personnel in the state to check their bullet-proof vests to determine if they are manufactured with Zylon fiber after another body armor manufacturer contacted his office voicing concerns that its vest may not provide adequate protection.

Armor Holdings, Inc., recently contacted Goddard indicating that the ABA Xtreme ZX may not provide protection throughout its five-year warranty. The letter indicates that its "testing shows that the (vest) has the statistical potential to fall below the desired

safety threshold prior to its current 50-month warranty."

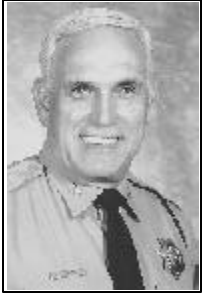
Armor Holdings and its related companies, which manufacture bullet-proof vests such as ABA Xtreme ZX, the ABA Xtreme Z, the ABA Xtreme X, the Protech TM Stealth Elite and the Safariland Platinum, have been named in a private class action suit in Florida by the Southern States Police Benevolent Association.

This revelation from Armor Holdings follows on the heels of the Attorney General's Office filing an amended complaint against

Second Chance for violating the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act in connection with bulletproof vests manufactured with Zylon fiber.

"As we have developed the case against Second Chance we have discovered egregious behavior through company documents," Goddard said. "The documents reveal that company officials knew the products degraded when exposed to certain elements, and they deliberately withheld information that could save lives."

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From Director Dennis Garrett's

Vantage Point

Recently, the Department's proposed general appropriation budget for the next two fiscal years was presented to the governor's office for consideration.

The fiscal year 2006 budget request reflects a 5.5-percent increase over this year's final appropriation of some \$158 million while the 2007 request represents an additional 5.6-percent appreciation. If funded at the requested levels, it would provide the Department with a solid base for departmental operations over the next two fiscal years.

Top priorities include our officer parity compensation program, money to help offset inflationary costs, new Highway Patrol officer positions, a domestic terrorism squad, replacement patrol vehicles, a record management system, continuation funding for the Public Safety Communications Commission and replacement of our antiquated microwave communication system.

From what we have heard and read, there will be a serious move this legislative year to improve salaries for state employees which includes DPS civilian employees. A report conducted by the Department of Administration indicates state employees are 20 percent behind market value in Arizona and 26 percent behind market value in the Western states.

A DOA report recommends a 4.5-percent increase through fiscal year 2009 for each state employee. If approved it would help close the gap between state employee salaries and those paid by private and public employers in the Western states.

State employees also have Gov. Napolitano in their corner. More than once she has said state employees are "sorely underpaid" and that her office will be looking at proposing additional pay raises for state employees.

Although we remain hopeful that the legislature will greet our proposals and the possibility of a significant salary hike for state employees with promise, it is still much too early in game. But once the general election is over, we should have a much better idea of what the future holds for all state agencies and their respective employees.

LESSS studies many issues pertaining to safer police cars

In 2003, the International Association of Chiefs of Police Highway Safety Committee established the Law Enforcement Stops and Safety Subcommittee (LESSS) to work with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in an effort to improve officer safety during traffic stops.

This was done at the request of the Blue Ribbon Panel established in 2002 by Gov. Janet Napolitano, then Arizona attorney general.

LESSS consists of 26 safety experts from government, vehicle manufacturers, safety advocacy groups and law enforcement.

This national committee is chaired by Lt. Col. Bill Reutter, assistant director of the Highway Patrol Division (HPD). Major Deston Coleman, HPD chief of staff, chairs the "Vehicle Subcommittee" and Sgt. Robbie Milam provide staffing for the committee.

This is the first of three articles pertaining to LESSS issues that will be published in the *Digest*. This month's article addresses the police vehicle. In November, issues pertaining to highway design and environment will be presented. The final installment in December will cover policy and procedure issues.

The material presented consists of edited excerpts from the LESSS report, submitted to the IACP and NHTSA, combined with segments from a magazine article, written by Major Coleman, and published by *Police Chief Magazine*.

MOST DANGEROUS POLICE WORK

Stopping on or near the roadway is one of the most dangerous facets of police work.

In the 10-year period between 1993 and 2002, 681 officers were killed accidentally. Of these deaths, 381 resulted from automobile crashes, and another 111 occurred after being struck by vehicles, 73 while directing traffic or assisting motorists. The remaining 38 occurred while effecting traffic stops or participating in either checkpoints or road blocks.

At least 15 officers have been killed during the past decade in fiery rear-end collisions involving their patrol vehicles.

Despite efforts to improve the officers' operating environment, safety of officers during traffic stops and other roadside contacts remains in jeopardy. Rapid technological advances, including component shielding, on-board fire suppressant systems, and vehicle conspicuity, may make police vehicles safer, but the driving population has changed and now includes more drunken drivers, more

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The Digest is published monthly by the DPS Training and Management Services Bureau for the employees and retirees of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Employees are invited to submit story ideas or stories for publication. Stories or story ideas may be submitted to *The Digest* by mail, EMS or Telephone (602-223-2313).

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The Digest can be accessed directly from the DPS World Wide Web home page at <http://www.dps.state.az.us/digest>.

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Law and Order honors design of DPS Highway Patrol car

Those who have been around DPS for more than a few years have witnessed the metamorphosis of the Department's Highway Patrol vehicles.

With a few interruptions, the agency's Highway Patrol car has remained white, but the progression of color schemes and markings has been subtle since the 1950s.

When the Arizona Highway Patrol introduced its all-white patrol car in the early 1950s, the markings were relatively basic—a star on each of the two front doors and "Highway Patrol" printed on the trunk area. That was pretty much it until the early 1990s.

In the early 1990s, marking schemes on

the DPS patrol car began to evolve dramatically to a point where the present package features an abundance of reflectorized materials designed and strategically placed in an effort to make the cruiser more visible, thus providing for a safer working environment for today's Highway Patrol officers.

Such recent upgrades didn't go unnoticed, especially by *Law and Order Magazine* which recently announced the winners of its annual International Police Vehicle Design Contest. The internationally-respected police management magazine awarded DPS third place in the Federal or State Agency category of its competition.

"If you break it down, our patrol car was tops among state police agencies this year," said Major Deston Coleman, chief of staff for the Highway Patrol Division. "First place went to the Stone Mountain Park Department in Georgia while second place was awarded to the Texas A&M - Kingsville University Police Department.

The DPS major said the Department also was one of the first agencies in the U.S. to adopt European concepts for vehicle color and markings, a fact that wasn't lost on the judges or other police agencies considering similar decal placement.

"Retroflective chevrons with high-color contrast were applied to the back bumper and vehicle roofs were outlined in retroflective material to improve conspicuity during daytime and night," Coleman explained.

"We designed this patrol car with safety as our top priority. The use of reflective materials on the sides and the rear of the vehicle, we believe, ensures high visibility while the clear letters and the Department's star make the vehicle unique and easily recognizable."

A judge concurred with Coleman.

In his comments, the judge said, "Very effective use of reflective decals on the rear bumper of this vehicle should make this car safer for the officer driving it. Its simple colors provide a high presence."

In conducting its contest, *Law and Order* said a truly great design involves more than an eye-catching color combination and stylized graphics.

"It involves safety, visibility and professionalism," according to the publication, adding that the patrol vehicle should have both the symbol of authority and the wording of the authority spelled out.

"It should also have the symbol and lettering on the side doors, the trunk lid/rear fascia. It should be immediately and clearly distinguished as an emergency vehicle, unique from a retail sedan or a taxi."

Body armor ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Goddard also noted Armor Holdings established a new warranty program for the ABA Extreme ZX and instituted an immediate warranty/exchange program. In addition, the Attorney General's Office has been notified of a potential settlement to the class action in Florida. Exhibits included in the amended complaint will be posted on the Attorney General's Office Web site at www.azag.gov under press releases.



Patrol car gains recognition

In its July edition, *Law and Order Magazine* awarded DPS third place in its annual vehicle design contest, Federal or State Agency category. The DPS Highway Patrol car was praised for effective use of reflective decals and conspicuous markings.

DPS officers involved in 1 of 3 fatal shootings

On Aug. 28, the same day two Phoenix police officers were shot to death, there were two other officer-involved shootings which left two suspects mortally wounded.

The first shooting that day occurred at about 9:30 a.m. and involved DPS Highway Patrol Officers Bruce Nauman and Tony Bread, who combined have more than 43 years of law enforcement service behind them. The second incident occurred about an hour later in Glendale.

The final shooting took place that evening at a north-central Phoenix apartment complex and resulted in the deaths of Phoenix Police Officers Jason Wolfe and Eric White. Both Wolfe and White died after being shot during a close-range gun battle with what investigators believe was a suicidal suspect. Following a short standoff after the initial shooting, officers found the suspect dead inside the apartment of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The incident involving the two DPS of-

ficers began to unfold when Nauman, a 25-year DPS veteran, responded to a report of a pedestrian on Interstate 17 some 15 miles north of Phoenix proper, near the New River exit.

When Nauman contacted the suspect, the Duty Office reported that the man became confrontational and was subjected to a Taser, but was able to flee into a nearby desert wash. After Bread arrived, the suspect began throwing large rocks at the two DPS officers at which time, Bread, an 18-year DPS veteran, shot the suspect. The suspect later died at a Phoenix area hospital.

Both DPS officers were treated at the scene for injuries suffered during the confrontation.

Later that morning, a Glendale resident died after being shot by Glendale police officers in what investigators believe was another suicide-by-cop shooting. Just prior to being fatally shot, the suspect had pointed and fired a handgun at the officers.

— Valor Award —

Officers' chance meeting results in saving life of crash victim

When Russell Bocks saw David Callister for the first time, they didn't exchange handshakes or greetings. There simply wasn't time for such pleasantries.

The challenge before them called for quick action in order to save the life of Manuel Larranga. At the time, serious body burns, a broken back and other fractured bones were the least of the Phoenix-area man's worries as he screamed for the officers' help while entrapped in a smoldering vehicle that was on the verge of escalating into a burning death trap.

Although Bocks and Callister, both DPS Highway Patrol officers at the time of the incident, had never met, within minutes they bonded as a team that was able to safely pull Larranga through a window of his SUV only minutes before flames erupted, turning the wreckage into an inferno which also torched a nearby palo verde tree situated in the median of I-10, just north of Casa Grande.

As a result of their fearless resolve that evening, each officer received the Department's Valor Award. Along with the highest honor that the agency can bestow, each also received 40 hours of recognition leave.

"Until that night, we had never in our lives met, but now I guess we have something in common," Bocks said of the honor the two received during ceremonies Aug. 5 in Tucson.

Prior to unexpectedly coming upon the crash scene, Bocks had just completed an advanced officers' training course in Phoenix and was returning to his home in Bisbee when he noticed a plume of grey smoke contrasting against a navy-blue nighttime sky. The 7-year DPS officer also noticed that traffic was slowing for no visible reason.

Less than a mile later, he came upon Larranga's vehicle which had slid into the median before partially wrapping itself around the aforementioned palo verde tree.

"When I first arrived, the truck was flaming from the engine compartment," Bocks explained. "He was trapped and I couldn't get the door open. I ran back to my patrol car and grabbed my fire extinguisher and water. The fire extinguisher doused the flames some. I ended up pouring the water on the victim because the flames were starting to come up through the floorboard."

As he drove up on the scene, Bocks called the Southern Operations Communication Center in Tucson and advised the dispatcher about the crash. Bocks, who is now assigned to Southern Narcotics in Tucson, also told the dispatcher that assistance

would be needed.

Bocks' assistance, as luck would have it, arrived about 90 seconds later with the arrival of Callister. Fortunately, for both Bocks and Larranga, Callister was less than a mile away when he received the call.

"To tell the truth, I was very surprised when David arrived so quickly," Bocks said. "Seeing that uniform was an indescribable relief. There is no better feeling than to have a fellow officer show up out of nowhere, especially in situations like this."

Callister, a Maricopa resident who works out of the District 6 office in Casa Grande, said he was in the process of leaving the interstate when contacted by the dispatcher.

"When I arrived, it seemed like it took us forever to get him out, but in reality it was probably only a minute or two," Callister said.

"I was so worried about the fire, but I really never thought about it while we were pulling him out," Bocks remarked. "My only thought was to get him out of the vehicle, especially when we weren't having much luck with the fire extinguishers."

It was also fortunate that Callister, who spent eight years with the Show Low Fire Department prior to his arrival at DPS 2002, had a pair of "fire department gloves" in the trunk of his patrol car. The gloves came in quite handy during this rescue.

"I don't know why I kept these gloves in the trunk. I just thought that I might need them in case I had to touch something really hot," Callister said."

Because the SUV was on fire, both Callister and Bocks felt Larranga was going to die if they were unsuccessful in getting him out of his burning vehicle which resembled a pickup truck after the force of the crash dislodged the "camper shell" from his SUV. That shell was found in the median about 200 feet from the crash scene.

Callister said he is not sure what caused the crash.

"There were no marks indicating that he lost control," Callister related. "There was no evidence of a blown tire and there were no witnesses."

Bocks said there was some mention at the scene that someone "cut him off," forcing him to take evasive action.

When Callister arrived, the victim was still in his seat belt.

"He was pretty much in a panic and wasn't thinking too clearly," Callister said. "He didn't realize that he still had his seat belt on when he was trying to escape."

During the rescue, Callister and Bocks were continually warned by bystanders that

the vehicle was going to explode.

"My experience with car fires is that they don't explode," Callister said. "There may be a burst in flames, but you don't have a true explosion."

Bocks, a 1992 Gulf War veteran who served with the Army's 101st Airborne in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, may have a different definition than Callister when it comes to explosions.

"The gas tank blew within a minute or two after we got him out," Bocks said. "After we dragged him back a ways, we sat down. We were lucky when it blew. We were south of the vehicle when it blew. All the debris, smoke and flames went north, away from us. Somebody was watching over us."

Both Bocks and Callister said it seemed like "forever" before the Casa Grande Fire Department and an ambulance arrived, but in actuality it was probably less than 10 minutes as stress tends to stretch the stop watch.

At one point, Interstate 10 was closed briefly in each direction until firefighters could get the upper hand on the blaze.

In late summer, Larranga met with his rescuers for the first time and was sincerely appreciative of their heroism. He told them several times that he faced certain death if they hadn't helped him. As it was, along with the broken back, he also suffered third-degree burns after the back of the shirt and pants he was wearing caught fire.

"For a guy that I don't even know to sit there and tell us he prays for us every day, it's a feeling I can't even put into words. It's easy to say it is part of our jobs, but you can't describe our feelings to know somebody is truly grateful that we saved his life."

Although proud of their awards, both believe they simply were doing their jobs.

"If faced with a similar situation, I believe everybody in the Department would do the same thing," Bocks said. "I sincerely believe this. It's just something you do."

As for Callister, "I just happened to be at the right spot at the right time."

Other than Bocks' singed arm hair and Callister's slight touch of smoke inhalation, neither officer was injured, a small price to pay for saving someone's life.



Meritorious Service Award

DPS honors five for persistence, dedication in doing their jobs

A DPS lieutenant and three officers who played pivotal roles in the development of an emergency service safety program and a Highway Patrol officer who located and arrested a hit-and-run suspect received the Department's Meritorious Service Awards during ceremonies Aug. 17 in Phoenix.

Officers Steve Martin, Carolee Martin and Lori Latham along with Lt. Jeff Stanhope were honored with the prominent DPS award after working with the Mesa Fire Department in a cooperative training effort to help ensure the safety of firefighters and officers who respond to emergency service calls on the

Phoenix metropolitan freeway system.

In the presentation of his award, Officer Steve Svestka was lauded for quick thinking and investigative instincts which led to the arrest of an off-duty Scottsdale police officer, the suspected driver in a hit-and-run crash that left an off-duty Maricopa County Sheriff's Office deputy seriously injured.

Stanhope and the three officers were selected for their awards for "collaborating on the initial design, implementation and instruction" of a safety plan implemented by the Mesa Fire Department which introduced this safety program at a training session in

January.

"The success of this program has resulted in requests from other fire departments in the Phoenix valley to share this training in order to improve services valley-wide. Several of these requests have already been answered with a goal to offer this training to all requesting fire departments," the nomination read.

During the early-morning hours of May 1, Svestka was in the area of Mesa Drive and Javelina in the east valley when he learned of a freeway crash involving a hit-and-run vehicle and a motorcycle. At about the time of that radio dispatch, Svestka heard some grinding noises while watching the tail-lights in his rear-view mirror of a vehicle pulling into a nearby parking lot.

Svestka then was dispatched to check out a possible suspect car at another location. After seeing that vehicle and determining that it wasn't the vehicle involved in the crash, the east valley-based Highway Patrol officer remembered hearing and seeing that other car. He went back to the parking lot and found two men attempting to change the right front tire of a heavily-damaged Ford Mustang.

At first, the two failed to comply to his commands and had to be taken into custody at gunpoint. It was later determined that the Mustang was the "run" vehicle and that the driver was an off-duty Scottsdale police officer.

Six Highway Patrol officers receive Lifesaving Awards

The extrication of a man sinking in quicksand and three other unrelated rescue efforts involving suicidal subjects resulted in the presentation of Lifesaving Awards to six Highway Patrol officers.

Officers Ed Andersson, John Petculescu, Robert Bond and Brady Wilkins were honored Aug. 16 during award ceremonies in Phoenix while Andrew Beck and Rusty Smith received their Lifesaving Awards Aug. 17 during similar ceremonies in Flagstaff.

Perhaps the most unusual rescue involved Beck and Smith, two Highway Patrol officers assigned to District 3.

After responding to an emergency call

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3 receive Distinguished Service Awards

The actions of two Highway Patrol officers at a fiery crash scene and a recently-appointed sergeant who played a major role in the development of a statewide response crisis team were recipients of the Department's Distinguished Service Award.

Officers Joseph Campbell and Ryan Bair received their awards Aug. 17 in Flagstaff while Sgt. Sheila Markwell was honored the previous day during similar award ceremonies in Phoenix.

Campbell and Bair, remote duty officers who are stationed at the Petrified Forest, were cited for their "outstanding courage and bravery" for their actions at a crash scene the morning of June 9.

The incident involved a motor home that had collided with a minivan on an Interstate 40 median crossover about 35 miles east of Holbrook.

When the pair of District 3 officers arrived, the front of the minivan and the rear of the motor home were on fire. To make matters worse, there was a man trapped inside the burning minivan who appeared to be unconscious.

Because of damage caused by the impact, the officers could not access the passenger side of the vehicle. They then attached a tow strap to the van and used a truck owned by Ross Dia in an attempt to separate the vehicles. But the tow strap broke.

Dia, who before the arrival of Campbell and Bair, had already pulled three victims from the vehicles, and the officers then hooked a tow chain to the burning vehicle and pulled the van away from the motor home.

By then, the fire unfortunately was too intense, and the three were forced to retreat.

Despite tires on the van and motor home exploding and the strong possibility of a propane tank erupting, the three continued their rescue efforts.

Campbell began administering first aid on the three critically-injured victims while Bair, upon hearing about the possibility of another person trapped inside the vehicle, used his baton to break the rear window of the van, but did not find a second passenger. He then assisted in the fire-fighting efforts while Dia, who received a Citizen's Lifesaving Award from the Department for his efforts, assisted Campbell in administering aid to the injured.

Markwell was lauded for her role in the establishment of the Arizona Response Crisis Team (ARCT).

While assigned to the Department's Crime Victims' Service Program, Markwell, who promoted to sergeant in May, played a vital role in helping an Arizona Coalition for Victim Services committee design and develop a statewide response strategy should a mass-casualty event occur.

As part of the project, Markwell made sure that a broad, deep and diverse set of stakeholders contributed to the project. As part of this project, Markwell developed criteria for the acceptance of volunteers and ensured that all taught incident command issues and how to interact with police and fire officials.

She also was instrumental in developing security measures and cards so ARCT members were identifiable to police and fire agencies.

During the establishment of ARCT, Markwell formally surveyed each region after its formation and training as to the applicability, practicality and quality of training.

DPS honors many employees through recognition awards

Department awards were presented in August to a number of DPS employees during ceremonies at three locations.

The awards were presented Aug. 5 in Tucson, Aug. 16 in Phoenix and Aug. 17 in Flagstaff.

Following are those who were honored by the Department.

Criminal Investigations Division Drug Enforcement Bureau

Employee of the year (Southern), Detective John F. Maddux

Supervisor of the year, Sgt. Mark W. Morlock

Employee of the year (Northern), Detective Ronald C. Lewis

GITEM South

Employee of the year, Detective Myles V. Mace

Special Enforcement Bureau

Employee of the year (Southern), Detective Julian J. Sosa

Northern Canine Squad officer of the year, Detective John R. McFarland

Canine Squad of the year, Canine North, Squad 1

Investigation Bureau

Southern Investigations employee of the year, Detective Bruce W. Weddle

Supervisor of the year, Sgt. Walter D. Mercer

HITDA Intelligence Bureau

Supervisor of the year, Sgt. R. Steve Pferdeort
Employee of the year, Detective Brian P. McDonald

Vehicle Theft Task Force

Employee of the year, Detective Scott M. Reutter

Major Crimes Investigation

Employee of the year, Detective J. Wayde Webb

Tactical Operations

Employee of the year, Officer Gregory J. Loewen

Rocky Mountain Information Network

Employee of the year, Andrea Garcia

Criminal Justice Support Division

Manager of the year, Todd A. Griffith

Licensing and Regulatory Bureau

Employee of the year, Officer R. "Rudy" Buck

Records and Identification Bureau

Employee of the year, Melony A. Hubert

Scientific Analysis Bureau

Supervisor/administrator of the year, Elizabeth K. Brady-Morris

Scientist of the year, Michael B. Eyring

Employee of the year, Richard S. Parkans

Special Recognition Awards - Andrew M. Singer, M. Todd Huml

Operational Communications Bureau

Southern employee of the year, Michael J. Bishop

Central employee of the year, Kevin M. Kesler

Northern employee of the year, Suzanne D. Holbert

Supervisor of the year, Sharon L. Manson
Special Recognition Award, Maxine A. Liming

Information Technology Bureau

Employee of the year, John E. Halka

Telecommunications Bureau

Supervisor of the year, John S. Clymer

Agency Support Division

Division managers of the year, Lynda A. Schallman, M.H. "Rad" Kirchner

Facilities Management Bureau

Employee of the year, Gloria J. Smith

Supervisor of the year, S.E. "Sue" LeHew

Training/Management Services Bureau

Supervisor of the year, Patsy J. McFadden

Employees of the year - Marsha K. McNeese, Sally A. Loveland

Human Resources Bureau

Supervisor of the year, James W. Warriner

Employee of the year, Jennifer Vasquez

Logistics Bureau

Supervisor of the year, Bonnie C. Crow

Financial Services Bureau

Supervisor of the year, Beverly K. Bettes

Employee of the year, Marla A. Schrecengost

Highway Patrol Division

Southern Patrol Bureau

Employee of the year, M. Renee Mitchell

Supervisor of the year, Sgt. Steve J. Harris

Field training instructor of the year, B.C.

"Chris" Dunn

Civilian employee of the year, Jack C. Hafer

Special Recognition, Sgt. Donald E. Johnson

Special Recognition, District 9, Area 1

Central Patrol Bureau

Employee of the year, Sgt. Thomas A. Elias

Supervisor of the year, Sgt. William R. Cramer

Squad of the year, Metro West District, Squad 3

Reserve officer of the year, Metro Central, Sgt. Paul H. Drake

Field training instructor of the year, Officer Keith R. Thomas

Northern Patrol Bureau

Reserve officer of the year, Robert D. Gilbert

Civilian employee of the year, Charlie H. Cleveland

Supervisor of the year, Sgt. Thomas M. Kern

Field training instructor of the year, Officer Christopher P. Motko

HPD district officers of the year

Danny R. Roark, Metro Motors

Travis J. Smith, Metro East

James J. Gallagher, Metro Central

Edward C. Andersson, Metro West

Gary J. Bujdos, District 1

R. Stewart Shupe, District 2

Andrew K. Anderson, District 3

Stephen T. Strong, District 4

John M. Richardson, District 6

Warren D. Simpson, District 8

Randall L. Narmi, District 9

Eric L. Ellison, District 11

Angelo F. Trujillo, District 12

Aviation Section

Employee of the year, Drusilla E. Bottoms

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau

Supervisor of the year, Ursula B. Miller

Employee of the year, Sheri M. Doll

District 15 employees of the year - Officer Jeffrey L. Eavenson, Officer Timothy T. Tatro

District 16 employee of the year, Richard F. Grommon

A job well done

Johnette Lundy, Supply:

I wanted to pass along to you that when I went into the copier room the morning of Aug. 20, I "caught" Ralph Dunham loading the copier with paper after he had just delivered a shipment to the HQ building.

I asked him if it was Supply's responsibility to maintain/supply the copier with paper, etc. He said that it wasn't. He said he was doing it because it was something that needed to get done and would make other people's days a little easier.

Ralph has always provided great customer service to me, but I think I take things like that for granted. His random acts of kindness probably go unnoticed most of the time, so I wanted to make sure this one didn't.

Sgt. Steve Enteman, Licensing

Art Coughanour, Digest Editor

When I came back to work after a lengthy absence, I had many back issues of the Digest to review. I took them home and in my spare time, I read them thoroughly. You and Jimmy Jertson have done such a wonderful job on all the different articles. Once I have read one, I feel fully informed and satisfied.

Thank you for all the long, hard hours you guys must put in to make each issue so interesting and fun to read. Excellent job. Thanks again.

Alice Abbott, DPS Switchboard

Southern Arizona DUI Task force arrests 408

The Southern Arizona DUI Task Force arrested 408 suspects on drunken driving charges during a 12-day campaign that concluded Sept. 13.

DPS Sgt. Ed Slechta, task force president, said of those arrested, 60 were under the age of 21.

"It's frightening that we have so many underage drinkers. They just don't realize the consequences," the Tucson-based sergeant said.

DPS' Linda Leonard retires after 36 years

Lynda M. Leonard, a dedicated worker with an incessant smile and warm personality, retired from DPS July 31 after more than 36 years of service with the agency.

Leonard began her career with the agency on March 11, 1968, as a clerk typist in the Technical Communications Section.

A short time later, she transferred to Data Processing where she served as a statistical clerk. Leonard eventually transitioned into the Department's Finance Department where she served for many years and received several promotions.

Leonard remained in the Finance Department through September of 1994 where she was responsible for pay issues involving all DPS employees as a fiscal services specialist II.



LYNDA LEONARD

Her supervisors at the time said she was heavily relied upon in this assignment because of her competence and reputation of ensuring accurate employee salaries.

Leonard's supervisors also said she greatly contributed to the success of the entire Payroll Department during her time working there.

Since September of 1994, Leonard had served as a budget analyst with the agency, most recently in the Criminal Justice Support Division (CJSD).

In this capacity, she completed a wide variety of tasks supporting the Division's management of a nearly \$30 million annual budget and 500 employees.

Leonard's work ethic and productivity levels were praised during this assignment as was her positive demeanor and willingness to assist others.

As she embarks on retirement, Leonard said she will really miss the people she has worked with at DPS.

"DPS was a great place to work and I loved every minute of it," Leonard said. "But I will miss the people at DPS much more than I will miss the job."

As far as her retirement plans are concerned, Lynda hopes to do a great deal of traveling with her husband, Harold.

The two have been married for more than 45 years. As it turned out, both Lynda and Harold retired from work on the exact same day.

Law allows retired officers to carry concealed weapons

With some restrictions, retired police officers will be allowed to carry concealed weapons nationwide under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act signed into law July 19 by President George W. Bush.

"To qualify under this law, a retired officer must have retired as a sworn officer with at least 15 years of service with the law enforcement agency or have retired due to a service-connected disability," said Commander David Denlinger of the Department's Training and Management Services Bureau.

"The retired officer, at his or her own expense, must have met state standards for firearms qualification during the most recent 12-month period although it is unclear how a retired officer is to document this requirement. Under current AZ POST guidelines, this would require the retired officer to maintain a qualifying score, and complete a judgmental shooting session."

Although current sworn law enforcement officers may carry concealed weapons, some restrictions apply, Denlinger said.

"The new law does not grant any police powers outside an officer's current jurisdiction," the DPS commander emphasized. "While an officer may carry a concealed weapon, he or she is not entitled to take police action in another state."

"The law does not usurp the right of private entities or government entities to continue to prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons. Law enforcement officers out of state do not have any powers to carry concealed weapons into restricted areas such as private businesses, government buildings or airports."

Denlinger noted that the new law applies to "normal" firearms carry, and does not allow the carrying of machine guns, weapons with silencers, or other destructive devices as defined by law.

The commander also explained that current and retired officers possessing concealed weapons out of state must have their official agency-issued identification card.

Officer Jim Vanta ends 35-year career

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Jim Vanta, a respected community member and talented martial arts instructor, retired from DPS June 30 after more than 35 years of service to the agency.

Vanta, who became an officer with DPS in 1969, spent almost his entire career assigned to the Globe-Miami area.



JIM VANTA

His lengthy presence in the Globe-Miami area helped him serve as a stabilizing influence on the region and the other DPS officers assigned to the area. For a number of years, the Globe-Miami area experienced constant and rapid turnover of DPS personnel, both officers and district commanders.

While so many others came and went, Vanta remained to train new officers and mentor recent arrivals.

He lent his experience and knowledge not just in the area of law and DPS policy, but also by helping new arrivals fit into the district and the community.

Vanta spent all but five years of his career with DPS serving as a Highway Patrol officer.

His five-year break from patrol duty occurred between March 1990 and October 1995 when he took a position in the Criminal Investigations Division and was assigned to the Gila County Narcotics Task Force.

Beyond the routine duties associated with his job at DPS, Vanta found time to instruct classes at a community college in Globe.

Vanta also worked with area youth as a Boy Scout leader and as a martial arts instructor, all while raising three children, Anndee, Pamela and Greg.

In a retirement letter, DPS Director Dennis Garrett told Vanta that it is not going to be easy for the Department to lose his 35 years of accumulated knowledge, experience and service.

However, Garrett said given the number of people Vanta has touched within the Department, the veteran Highway Patrol officer's legacy will be evident through the continued efforts of those officers he leaves behind to carry on.



Aftermath of I-10 crash

This is what's left of an 18-wheeler involved in a 14-vehicle, dust storm-related crash Aug. 11 near Tonapah on Interstate 10. Investigators said that when the crash occurred, visibility during the dust storm was limited to a matter of feet. The fiery collision, which claimed two lives and injured at least 25 others, involved 11 tractor-trailer rigs, a bus and two cars, according to Highway Patrol Sgt. Craig Bowles.

DPS Commercial Vehicle officers issue numerous citations in 'Operation SST'

DPS officers assigned to the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau were responsible for issuing most of the 944 citations during "Operation SST" (safe and secure trucks), a federal Homeland Security detail staged July 26-29 on Interstate 40 between Williams and Flagstaff.

Participating with DPS and Homeland Security in the second annual truck detail were personnel from the federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the American Red Cross, and the Arizona Trucking Association.

"The operation focused on performing safety and security checks on commercial vehicles plus interviews with drivers to detect unusual or suspicious circumstances in their operations," said Lt. Bernie Gazdzik, commander of the Flagstaff-area Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau. "Six incidents of significant information were developed and forwarded to the appropriate investigative authority."

The operation included roving patrols for three days (July 26, 27, 29) and east-west checkpoints at an I-40 rest area July 28.

"Four individuals were arrested and face charges relating to the possession of narcotics/drug paraphernalia, concealed weap-

ons and attempted bribery of a police officer," the DPS lieutenant said.

Gazdzik commented that the officers placed 30 vehicles and 62 drivers out of service during the four-day detail.

Commercial Vehicle officers inspected 214 vehicles and checked the papers and credentials of 339 drivers.

Six employees receive Director's Citation for Professional Excellence

A Highway Patrol officer, three detectives and two civilian employees were honored with the Director's Citation for Professional Excellence Award in August.

Recipients include Highway Patrol Officer Dee Baumann; Detectives Chuck Herrera, Ken Nelson and Jimmy Oestmann; and civilian employees Rosie Miller and Dan Kelly.

During the August employee recognition ceremonies held in Tucson, Phoenix and Flagstaff, the Department also presented Suggestion Awards to Michelle Gioglio, Sgt. James Stanton and Sgt. Robert Smart along

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2nd annual Yuma 'Gathering' planned for November 20

The second annual "Gathering of the Badges," an event honoring all law enforcement officers serving or having served in the Yuma area, including DPS, is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 20.

In connection with the "Gathering," the Coalition of DPS Retirees will incorporate one of its "Java Jaunts" and take a "van load" of retirees from Phoenix to Yuma, said retired Lt. Col. Larry Thompson, coalition vice chairman.

"The van will depart from the DPS security entrance at 1 p.m. sharp," Thompson said. "We will need to hear from you if you intend to go in the van."

Thompson can be reached via e-mail at larrytaz@yahoo.com. Those interested can also contact Coalition President J.R. Ham toll free at 1-888-711-2778.

The 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. event at the Yuma County Fairgrounds, which is expected to draw more than 300 people, is sponsored by the Select Council on Progressive Enforcement (SCOPE), a regional entity that assists in coordinating law enforcement activities in the Yuma County area.

SCOPE members also are planning a barbecue dinner that evening starting at 5 and ending at 6:30.

Tickets for the event at the Fairgrounds' Beer Garden area should be purchased in advance. Cost is \$10 per person. Checks should be made out to SCOPE and mailed to the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, 141 S. 3rd Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364.

For additional information, contact Sherry Zimmerman (928-539-7863, or e-mail sherry.zimmerman@co.yuma.az.us).

The CDPSR van will return to Phoenix following the dinner, Thompson said.

Auto thefts decline

For the first time in five years, the number of auto thefts in Arizona decreased, according to preliminary figures released by the state Department of Transportation.

Despite a 1-percent decline in auto thefts for 2003, Arizona still topped the national per capita average. Overall, ADOT said 57,000 vehicles were stolen in 2003, some 654 fewer than pilfered in 2002.

Many in law enforcement credit the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority with providing police funds for the tools needed to catch thieves and to educate car owners on theft-prevention measures.

Trent Mortenson keeps running, jumping while collecting Police Olympics gold

BY SGT. JIM STANTON
District 3, Holbrook

Anyone want to race?

Before answering, let me tell you about Officer Trent Mortenson who has been assigned to District 3, Holbrook, since his lateral transfer to DPS from the Snowflake Police Department in 2001.

Trent attended Northern Arizona University on a track scholarship and later was a member of the Arizona State University track team.

While with Snowflake P.D., he became interested in competing in the Police Olympics in track and field and qualified for the 2002 International Police Olympics Games in the javelin, but decided not to attend that year's competition in Canada.

Last October, Trent competed in the Mesa Police and Fire Games in grand fashion by entering the long jump, triple jump, high jump, 50-meter dash, 100-meter dash, 4x100 relay and the 4x400 relay events.

To qualify for the International Police Olympics, you must place first or second (alternate) in a qualifying meet to receive an invitation to the International Games. In the Mesa games, Trent captured gold medals in all seven events, a regular Mark Spitz on land.

In April, Trent competed in the Tucson Police Games even though he had already qualified for the International Police Olympics. As he did in Mesa, he took seven first-place gold medals in Tucson.

In June, he competed in the Grand Canyon Games, a multi-sport Olympic festival for Arizona's athletes, as a tune up for the International Games. He "only" competed in the long jump and triple jump. Of course, he took gold medals in both of these events within his respective age group.

With his performance at the Grand Canyon Games under his belt, Trent felt ready

for the International Police Olympics held this year in Las Vegas.

Trent decided that since the long jump and the triple jump were his favorites and the only events he competed in during the Grand Canyon Games, he would try his luck in only those two events.

On Aug. 11, he competed in the long jump and took the gold medal with a jump of 20-2¼. The following day, he competed in the triple jump and came away with another gold medal by jumping just over 40 feet.

Not only did he beat competitors in his age group (30-34) in both events, but the 30-year-old Highway Patrol officer also beat all competitors in all age groups in both events while enjoying the whole Olympic experience competing against police and firefighter athletes from throughout the world.

The next International Games take place in 2006 in Brazil. I asked Trent if he planned on defending his titles. He said he would like to, but it's going to take some serious money to compete in Brazil.

Anybody have any construction openings? When not working or competing, Trent volunteers as an assistant coach for the Snowflake High School track team. He tries to run two or three times a week, but gets most of his training chasing livestock and his three daughters on his ranch in Snowflake.

When it comes to the Department's PT testing program, Trent jokingly has a few questions.

Since he really doesn't like long-distance running, does he still have to complete the 1.5-mile run if he can run 300 meters in less than 40 seconds? Do two gold medals in the International Police Olympics qualify him for a DPS PT ribbon?

His final question, "Does anyone want to race?"

LEMSC establishes lists for 'admin' promotions

Following a pair of testing processes, the Arizona Law Enforcement Merit System Council established promotional lists for the positions of administrative service manager and administrative assistant.

Topping the promotional list for administrative service manager was Sally Loveland. She was followed by, in qualifying order, Cynthia Pellien, Ana Rosa Velarde, Chuck LeBlanc, Debbie Kasprzak, Michele

Johnson, Patricia Morris, Val Biebrich, Rene Wilson and Laretta Lehan.

Cathy Chandler heads the promotional list for administrative assistant. Behind her, in qualifying order, are Andrea Garcia, Annabelle Jose, Robert Troup, Mary Lou Wilkinson, Melissa Haban-Jackson, Frances Hopewell, Beatrice Gutierrez, Jacquelyn O'Brien, Glenda Stanton, Rhonda Sullivan, Kari Gras and Marla Schrecengost.

DPS radio club meets monthly, welcomes guests

The Arizona DPS Amateur Radio Club (K7DPS) meets on the third Thursday of each month and welcomes employees, retirees and family members.

The meetings start at 5 p.m. and are conducted in the Telecommunications Engineering conference room, southwest corner of the Phoenix compound.

"We would like those interested to come even if they are not licensed," said Walter Howard, club vice president.

"If not licensed, we have in the past tutored people to pass the tests which are not terribly difficult. You don't have to learn Morse Code for the entry-level test.

"Also, if you are unable to attend meetings in person, teleconferencing is available."

Currently, Howard said there are no dues for membership and loaner equipment is available for members.

"The club participates in a number of operating events throughout the year from a station located on the compound and has gone to a member's property in Lakeside for an annual field day contest/emergency operating exercise," Howard related.

Howard, badge no. 4779, can be contacted at extension 2258 or at whoward@dps.state.az.us.

From the Intrenet

Cehck tihs out.

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae.

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Ralely amzanig stfuf. Waht do you thnik?

Real groaners

Wonder why bicycles can't stand along? Probably, two tired.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

Humanitarian effort leaves DPS commander attached to Kosovo

About a year ago, Commander Dean Nyhart was asked by a close friend if he would be willing to travel more than 4,500 miles to the region of Kosovo in order to assist with ongoing humanitarian efforts there.

Nyhart, who just last month became commander at the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy (ALEA), pondered the question for less than a second before answering with a resounding, "Yes."

The DPS commander, a deeply-religious and adventurous person by nature, said he felt very compelled to participate with his friend on a humanitarian mission to Kosovo because the region's inhabitants had in recent years been victimized by some of the most horrific crimes against humanity the world has ever seen.

Thankfully, the horrific violence that plagued Kosovo for so many years seems to have stopped thanks to military intervention by organizations such as the United Nations (UN). However, as a result of the unthinkable horrors that occurred in Kosovo for such a long time, the region, once part of Yugoslavia, still remains among the most devastated, traumatized and neglected areas of the world.

"Because the pain and suffering in Kosovo occurred so recently when viewed on a time-line of comparable world atrocities, I felt as if a short trip there would be very meaningful and allow me to help the people there in some way," Nyhart said.

After deciding that he wanted to endure a lengthy journey to Kosovo, Nyhart began to carefully plan his trip. When his travel details were finalized this past August, the Northern Arizona University graduate left for the region with a group of other Americans who were traveling there to perform two weeks of humanitarian work.

Two days after Nyhart and his group arrived in Kosovo, local authorities made a truly grim discovery when they located and uncovered a mass grave containing the bodies of more than 300 people who had been systematically killed during the Serbian occupation of Kosovo.

"It was very unnerving to learn shortly after I arrived that the people there are still finding mass graves where their loved ones are buried," said Nyhart, adding that more than 200 mass grave sites have been located in the region since the Serb occupation ended in 1999.

The first time Nyhart had a chance to thoroughly explore Kosovo, he quickly noticed the almost complete absence of young and middle-aged men.



Friends

DPS Commander Dean Nyhart poses for a picture with a large group of Albanian children during his recent trip to Kosovo. Nyhart, the new commander at the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy (ALEA), spent two weeks in the war-torn region assisting in a variety of humanitarian efforts.

He soon learned from the locals that nearly all the young and middle-aged men in the region had been rounded up and killed by Serb forces during the war. As a result, most people Nyhart observed on Kosovo's streets were small children and young women in their 20s and 30s.

"I learned that almost every male in Kosovo who was strong enough to pick up a weapon, even 12-year-old boys, had been systematically exterminated," said Nyhart.

Even though the Serb occupation of Kosovo, which is similar in size to Maricopa County, ended five years ago, Nyhart noticed many people standing on street corners there displaying pictures of missing loved ones.

Nyhart said these people were desperately showing the pictures to random pedestrians in hopes of finding information about the fate of their missing loved ones. He also noticed flyers on just about every telephone pole featuring photos and information about people who have disappeared.

Nyhart said the flyers were placed on the poles by children still hoping to find their parents, sisters still hoping to find their brothers, and parents still hoping to find their children.

"It was very moving and shocking to see people there still looking for a connection to their loved ones," Nyhart said.

After familiarizing himself with Kosovo and coming to terms with the scope of the devastation that had taken place there, Nyhart began his humanitarian work.

Once he got started, he nearly worked himself into complete exhaustion.

"I wanted to make a real difference in the short time I had in Kosovo and I may have overdone it at first," said Nyhart, who had very little rest and sleep during the first part of his trip.

His work in Kosovo consisted mostly of helping with local reconstruction and building efforts, facilitating sports clinics for area children, and providing music and entertainment to children at area nurseries and orphanages.

Nyhart, a talented musician, carried his guitar almost every place he went in Kosovo so that he could play happy, upbeat songs for the children there.

One day during his trip, Nyhart helped a group of Albanian and international police officers deliver building materials, clothing, and food to a local family residing in a bombed and torched section of Pristina, Kosovo's capitol.

Nyhart said the family consisted of eight children, two parents, and a grandfather. The family's home had no furniture or plumbing and everyone living there slept on a dirt floor which was often muddy.

Nyhart said no member of the family had a pair of shoes and that each family member had been wearing the same set of clothes (shirt, pants and under garments) for as long as three years.

The family recently hit upon hard times

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Nyhart ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

and had to sell the only cow they owned to purchase food. When the family owned the cow, Nyhart said the bovine lived in the house with them so that it would not be stolen.

Nyhart also said that the typical family in Kosovo, no matter how big it is, usually lives in one room and sleeps under the same blanket.

Several Albanian residents in Kosovo spoke English and spoke candidly to Nyhart about the horrific events that occurred in the area during the Serb occupation. Nyhart said he heard many accounts from people about what it was like to watch middle-of-the-night raping, torture, kidnapping and murdering of family members.

He said most of the horror Kosovo residents experienced at the hands of their oppressors stopped after UN resolutions were passed in 1999 and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military forces were allowed to move into the region. When NATO troops arrived, Nyhart said they were able to force the Serbian troops out through ground fighting and air strikes.

Because the liberating NATO forces were led primarily by American military personnel, Nyhart said the people in Kosovo equate their newfound freedom and the end of their pain and suffering with America. As a result, Nyhart said Kosovans absolutely love Americans.

"Because I was from the U.S., I had poverty-stricken locals approach me and offer to spend the only Euro in their pocket to buy me a pastry or beverage," Nyhart said. "It was truly amazing. The people in Kosovo feel as if all Americans are somehow responsible for saving their lives and ending their pain and suffering."

Although small taxis were available in Kosovo, Nyhart said he walked almost everywhere he needed to go.

Walking was simply the best way to get around, Nyhart said, because gas was about \$5 a gallon in the city and the taxi rides were so bumpy they could "knock the fillings right out of your teeth."

Nyhart said the jarring cab rides in Kosovo are due to the fact that the city's streets are still very shredded and cratered from all the tanks and armored vehicles that roamed the streets for so many years.

While on his trip, Nyhart stayed at the home of the friend who initially asked him if he would be willing to travel to Kosovo. The friend of Nyhart's is an American doctor who has been living in the region for several months while developing a medical



Locals

DPS Commander Dean Nyhart passes out candy to local children while touring Kosovo.

program to improve the region's infant mortality rates.

Nyhart's colleague is one of many volunteer relief workers who labor full-time to improve living conditions in Kosovo.

Despite the widespread presence of full-time relief workers like his friend in Kosovo, Nyhart said overall living conditions are still very bad there because the region has not yet been allowed to classify itself as a "country."

Because of its lack of recognition as an independent "country", Kosovo is not eligible for various types of international assistance and loans.

As a result of this dilemma, Nyhart said a great deal of the aid in Kosovo has actually been coming from the NATO and UN military troops stationed full-time in the region. He said the NATO and UN troops, representing various countries, have been the ones repairing the region's houses, schools, day centers and government buildings.

He said the troops become involved in the repairs because they must be done and such activity also keeps them from getting bored. Often times, Nyhart said these forces spend their own money to purchase supplies for repairs.

Although troops are performing a great deal of the rebuilding in the region, Nyhart said the UN administration is the official coordinator of relief efforts and also the region's interim government.

Nyhart had a chance to meet of few UN officials on his trip and found them to be very professional and friendly. Then again, almost everyone Nyhart met in Kosovo was very friendly and hospitable and made it very

difficult for him to leave.

When he did have to leave Kosovo, he said the only thing he could think about was going back someday, hopefully for a longer period of time.

"When I first decided to make this trip, I knew I would be emotionally impacted during my stay there and probably have something change about me," Nyhart said. "Those thoughts were correct. Since the day I arrived home in Arizona, I have felt compelled to return to Kosovo. It is forever on my mind throughout the day."

Nyhart said it has also been hard for him to go for lengthy periods of time without his thoughts shifting towards the people of Kosovo.

"I can remember the faces of the Kosovo people so vividly," Nyhart said. "The faces clearly reveal a sense of pain and loss that no human should have. Most people in Kosovo look very weathered and have a hallow look in their eyes. This appearance reveals a sense of trouble and heartache. I only wish I could have done more to help ease the pain they still have."

Rocket scientist? Summer heat?

Maybe it was the summer heat that caused a memory lapse that sent this drug runner scurrying back to Tucson.

Then again, maybe it's true that more often than not drug runners aren't to be considered rocket scientists.

Such was the case for this forgetful drug runner. On the morning of June 23, this suspect was verbally given an address of a drop house in Phoenix.

But somewhere between Tucson and Phoenix on westbound Interstate 10, the man's retention skills headed south.

After arriving in Phoenix and cruising city streets for several hours hoping to remember the address or see a familiar face or structure, he gave up hope and headed back for the Old Pueblo.

But as darkness fell, his luck took another turn for the worse as he was stopped for following too closely. During the eastbound I-10 stop near Casa Grande, Highway Patrol Officer David Callister found 76 pounds of marijuana on the passenger-side floorboard, underneath a blanket.

"He told me that everything would have been OK if he could have only remembered the address," Callister said. "It's quite unusual to get a load of dope heading east on this area of interstate."

Just this guy's bad luck, going the wrong way on the right side of the road led to his demise.

The war on drugs

Thanks to DPS Canine Officer Joe Lapre, this man is now missing a 2003 Buick and \$1,500 in cash, not to mention 12 kilos of cocaine.

After stopping the vehicle Sept. 14 just east of Winslow on I-40, Lapre requested and received permission to search the vehicle. During this search he observed some indicators of criminal activity which eventually led him to the discovery of a false compartment within the Buick. The "coke" was

found inside the hidden compartment.

A traffic stop provided for some intense moments, but the end result was a substantial marijuana bust for Highway Patrol Officer David Callister.

On Sept. 13, Callister stopped a Ford pickup in the Casa Grande area for a registration violation. The officer told the Duty Office that during the stop, a second vehicle pulled in front of the pickup and fired a shot into the air before fleeing.

After things settled, Callister found 680 pounds of marijuana while searching the truck. Along with the truck and contraband, Callister also seized \$640 in cash.

Excellence ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

with a Letter of Commendation to Jimmy Jertson.

During the Tucson ceremony, Sgt. Patrick Young was announced as the recipient of the Fraternal Order of Police, Grand Canyon Lodge, Officer of the Year Award.

Baumann was praised for her level of professionalism during a traffic stop which eventually led to the dismantling of an elaborate international Internet marijuana distribution and money-laundering organization operated by the driver she stopped.

During the June 2001 traffic stop on U.S. 93 about 15 miles north of Wickenburg, Baumann seized a small amount of methadone and about \$30,000 in cash from the driver, a Las Vegas resident.

Eventually, state and federal narcotics investigators learned about the stop. Baumann's documentation was later used by investigators to build their case against the Las Vegas man. Eventually, the investigation resulted in the seizure of numerous homes and vehicles along with an additional large sum of money.

Herrera was praised for his investigative efforts involving the Juarez Cartel, one of the largest and most powerful drug-trafficking organizations based in Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico.

The Arizona investigation resulted in the seizure of 204 kilos of cocaine and some \$42,000 in cash.

The joint investigation resulted in the seizure of 620 pounds of cocaine, 46 pounds of methamphetamine and about \$7.2 million in U.S. currency.

In August, 2003, Nelson developed information about the sale of large quantities of marijuana. With this information, DPS joined U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in an investigation that saw

agents conduct surveillance on a tractor-trailer rig that departed from Columbus, Ohio for Tucson with Atlanta as a side trip.

In Tucson, agents stopped the truck and found nearly \$2 million in cash. As part of the case, ICE agents seized another \$217,000 in cash in Columbus.

Oestmann's award stems from his ability to develop and implement a comprehensive multi-agency operational plan aimed at eradicating a large marijuana outdoor growing operation camouflaged within the remote reaches of central Gila County.

The operation utilized federal, state and county law enforcement agencies on an around-the-clock basis. Eventually, officers seized more than 19,000 marijuana plants.

Kelly was applauded for his expertise in federal and state criminal law which played an instrumental role in Operation Green Mile, a money-laundering undertaking.

His proficiency led to the creation of a new type of warrant used to seize illegal proceeds directly from non-bank money transmitters before it reaches its intended beneficiary.

Kelly's skills in this area led to the seizure of \$45 million in cash and assets, including several luxury homes.

Miller is responsible for managing the Department's cash flow which receives funding from 14 appropriated funds, several non-appropriated funds and numerous grant programs. She also manages the more than \$80 million the Department receives in transfers from funds managed by the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Miller's other activities include preparing budget/expenditure summaries, monthly account/fund balance reconciliations, periodic payroll adjustments, position vacancy reports, annual federal indirect costs agreement calculations and annual budget requests.

A traffic stop for criminal speed resulted in the arrest of three suspects and the confiscation of \$22,559.

Highway Patrol Officer Neal Williamson told the Duty Office that he initiated the stop on eastbound I-10 near Casa Grande Sept. 1.

Fortunately, the use of mace was not needed. Unfortunately, for these two drug-running suspects, they got to see this Highway Patrol officer apply his craft.

The result of the Sept. 6 stop was a trip to the Coconino County Jail for this pair.

Flagstaff-based Highway Patrol Officer Mace Craft stopped the 2004 Lincoln four-door for speeding on Interstate 40 near Flagstaff. Eventually, Craft got to search the vehicle and found 16 pounds of cocaine inside a rear passenger door.

After the arrest, Craft made arrangements to have the car returned to its rental agency.

Those running meth might be better off ignoring I-17, especially if Highway Patrol Officer Joseph Proffer is working the Cordes Junction area.

In slightly more than a week, Proffer conducted a pair of traffic stops in the Cordes Junction area which resulted in the seizure of almost six pounds of methamphetamine.

His first bust came Aug. 24 during a traffic stop for speeding. Proffer told the Duty Office that he seized 2.5 pounds of meth during this stop. Assisting in the bust was Canine Officer Cleave Odegard and his partner Woody.

Along with the meth, the officers seized a 1997 Pontiac and \$819 in cash.

The next traffic stop occurred Sept. 1 in nearly the same location. During this stop, Proffer searched the 1997 Nissan and came up with 3.25 pounds of the illegal substance.

In addition to the meth, Proffer seized the car and \$885 in U.S. currency.

Arizona enters CCW agreement with Ohio

Arizona has entered into a concealed carry weapon (CCW) reciprocal agreement with Ohio making it the eighth state to honor such an agreement.

Other states with Arizona CCW agreements include Alaska, Arkansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Utah and Texas.

Because of this Sept. 1 agreement, Arizona CCW permit holders are now allowed to carry concealed weapons under respective state statutes. Arizona will reciprocate by recognizing CCW permits issued by these states.

Patrol cars...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

aggressive drivers, and more violent criminals. The vehicle mix also has been steadily transformed with more heavy trucks and SUVs on the roads. Along with high speeds, these factors continue to make improving officer safety during roadside contacts a challenging task.

After LESSS was established, three working groups were formed to study diverse aspects of officer safety during traffic stops and other roadside contacts.

Keeping with LESSS' mission to create a safer working environment for law enforcement in highway safety and traffic-related activities, law enforcement certainly needs to convey to police vehicle manufacturers its safety expectations relating to the vehicles that officers drive.

This includes working with aftermarket vendors on types of accessories, equipment and conspicuity law enforcement desires, as well as determining the safest location for to mount such items.

CRASH TEST SHIELDS

In 2002, at the request of the Blue Ribbon Panel, Ford committed to rear-impact, vehicle-to-vehicle crash testing of its Crown Victoria Police Interceptor (CVPI) at 75 mph. LESSS expects that such testing will continue since 75 mph reflects the work environment of officers on high-speed highways.

Ford studied vehicles involved in high-speed, high-impact, rear-end crashes to identify potential sources of fuel-tank puncture from vehicle parts, including rear-axle components, differential bolts, fuel-tank straps, and emissions canister bolts.

Ford then developed shields to protect the fuel tank. It evaluated these shields in crash simulations and in two 75-mph, vehicle-to-vehicle crash tests and confirmed the effectiveness of the shields in reducing the risk of fuel-tank punctures, reporting no tank punctures during the second test.

Today, some 356,000 (90%) of active-duty CVPIs have been equipped with fuel-tank shields. Results of actual high-speed, rear-end crashes involving CVPIs equipped with the shielding have been mixed. Neither a DPS cruiser nor a Nevada Highway Patrol car suffered punctured fuel tanks or fires when both were struck from behind at a high speed.

However, a Missouri State Highway Patrol officer was killed in May 2003 when his shield-equipped CVPI was rear-ended and burned.

Although NHTSA reported that the fuel tank was not responsible for that tragedy,

this incident clearly indicates much more work remains to be done to protect officers.

AFTERMARKET EQUIPMENT

Some 85 percent of agencies surveyed by the Blue Ribbon Panel in 2002 did not have procedures for packing cruiser trunks with equipment although many had experienced fuel tank punctures from floor jacks, pry bars, lug wrenches, metal boxes, crow bars, etc.

Ford developed its Trunk Pack and trunk equipment mounting guide to address this issue.

Ford conducted five 75-mph, vehicle-to-vehicle crash tests of the Trunk Pack filled, in accordance with its trunk-packing considerations, with 200 pounds of equipment and tools and had no punctures of the Trunk Pack.

LESSS believes that the Trunk Pack, the trunk equipment mounting guide, and the trunk-packing considerations can improve officer safety and provide flexibility in the transport of necessary equipment and tools and that all police-vehicle manufacturers should make them available.

LESSS also supports consistent supervisory inspections to identify what officers actually transport in their vehicles, as well as the manner in which they carry this equipment.

The CVPI has been tested in 75-mph, vehicle-to-vehicle rear-end collisions without any fuel system punctures, but actual crashes resulting in fires have not been eliminated. Ford evaluated military, race car and aftermarket fire suppression systems and found that none was acceptable for use in law enforcement vehicles.

However, Ford announced that onboard fire-suppression technology will be available for its 2005 model based on the following tenets: Any such system must activate automatically at the location where the cruiser stops, which in a 75-mph crash could be in excess of 100 feet from the point of impact, and must prevent the fire from reigniting. LESSS believes that although Ford's technology will allow officers additional time to exit their vehicles, it is not a panacea; LESSS will continue to explore this issue with Ford and other manufacturers.

Ford still is evaluating fuel-tank bladders, but has found no evidence that bladders would reduce the likelihood of fuel leakage. Ford's testing tends to indicate that bladders have short lives, require high maintenance and are unsuitable for mass production.

CONSPICUITY

Simply put, conspicuity aims to convey

an officer's message to motorists: "I am present; I am stopped; slow down and stay away from me."

In 2002, DPS hosted a demonstration of advanced conspicuity concepts.

Observers indicated that LEDs (light emitting diodes) appeared to provide a fairly narrow focus and were too bright; that strobes were too bright and could confuse approaching drivers; that rotating halogens were the most acceptable; and that red and blue lights in combination with amber lights were preferred.

Preliminary work with a new lightbar, take-down light, and directional arrow prototypes developed by the Florida Highway Patrol has demonstrated increased vehicle visibility.

The prototypes were designed based on research in human perception and reaction and used LED technology to manipulate color, output and flash rate.

The prototype light bar for a moving vehicle flashes randomly alternating red and blue segments across the lightbar at a rate of 90 flashes per minute.

In a parked vehicle, it flashes a solid color. A photo cell instructs the vehicle to flash red in the daytime and blue at night. Initial research shows the prototypes increase daytime and nighttime visibility, better inform motorists of vehicle movement, decrease shadows, and better protect officers during stops.

DPS revised the markings on its fleet of patrol cars. Taking cues from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, a reflectorized and angled blue-and-white stripe was added to the rear bumpers of our patrol cars.

The size of the letters composing the words "Highway Patrol" was increased to command greater attention and to identify more clearly the vehicle.

Reflective markings outline each vehicle's body, aiding both in recognition and in depth perception.

TESTING SIRENS

In another area, LESSS evaluated low-frequency sirens in the 125 to 300 Hz range. During tests, the prototype sirens could be heard 25-percent further away than the standard 700 to 1500 Hz sirens.

Additional testing will help determine the circumstance in which lower frequency sirens and different siren patterns are perceived more effectively by motorists.

Next Month: Highway design and environment.



Inside DPS

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Bracamonte, Frank E., 1583, Sergeant

Christie, John K., 1580, Sergeant

Durree, Gary L., 1854, Sergeant

Garrison, David C., 1536, Officer

Johnson, Jack R. 1590, Lieutenant

Lopez, Frank A., 1591, Lieutenant

Valente, Ruben O., 1605, Officer

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mendez, Susan R., 2629, Senior Police Communications Dispatcher

Phillips, Kathleen A., 2632, Records Supervisor

Stocker, Deborah R., 2631, Administrative Services Officer

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Miller, Ursula B., 3477, Administrative Services Manager

Olivas, Benita S., 3496, Administrative Secretary

NEW EMPLOYEES

Brooks, Neil T., 6418, Cadet Officer

Bui, Hop Q., 6409, Personal Computer Specialist

Cargill, Stefanie A., 6411, Computer Programmer Analyst

Claes, H. Patrick, 6412, Personal Computer Specialist

Deathrage, D.B., 6420, Cadet Officer

Drabik, Walter D., 6441, Facilities Maintenance Technician

Dryer, Megan C., 6430, State Service Intern

Gould, Nathan R., 6429, Cadet Officer

Hager, Jill A., 6416, Associate Criminalist

Henschke, Matthew P., 6421 Cadet Officer

Malachowski, Lisa L., 6417, Criminalist I

Merrill, Timothy R., 6423, Cadet Officer

Mitchell, Nicholas W., 6439, Officer

Otto, Jonathan P., 6434, Cadet Officer

Pestana, Steve A., 6440, Facilities Maintenance Technician

Preciado, Edgar, 6424, Cadet Officer

Ramsey, Rita L., 6410, Human Resources Assistant

Raphael, David J., 6425, Cadet Officer

Skousen, Tanner J., 6427, Cadet Officer

Soto, Shannon A., 6432, Cadet Officer

Stein, Michael D., 6408, Fixed Wing Pilot

Stomberg, Roderick V., 6413, Computer Programmer Analyst

Tran, Anthony R., 6437, Cadet Officer

Trueba, Benjamin T., 6435, Cadet Officer

Vogt, Scott A., 6431, Cadet Officer

Wiedemann, Tim K., 6414, Officer

Zesiger, Ezekiel D., 6437, Cadet Officer

DEPARTURES

Casteel, Brian I., 6072, Police Communications Dispatcher

Edwards, James D., 5782, Officer

Flores, Antonia M., 5963, Office Coordinator

Hale, Chad W., 3999, Officer

Rummel, Angela M., 5824, Human Resources Analyst

Useldinger, Joseph E., 6404, Facilities Maintenance Worker

Van Dusen, Brian D., 5840, Roadside Motorist Assistant

RETIREMENTS

LaFleur, John P., 5856, Aviation Supply Specialist, 4 years

Leonard, Lynda M., 501, Budget Analyst, 36 years

Schallmann, Lynda A., 2280, Chief of Staff, 26 years

BIRTHS

Aaron Stopke – 6 lbs., 6 oz., 19 inches, and Isaac Stopke – 6 lbs., 11 oz., 19 inches. Born Aug. 7 at Havasu Samaritan Hospital, Lake Havasu City, to Officer Dave Stopke and wife Allison. Dave is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to D-1, Wickenburg.

James Steven Shroufe – 6 lbs. 14 oz., 19 inches. Born Aug. 16 at Flagstaff Medical Center to Officer Steven Shroufe and wife Alix. Steve is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to District 2, Flagstaff.

Chance Christian Greene – 8 lbs., 6 oz., 20½ inches. Born Aug. 23 at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center, Glendale, to Officer Brian Greene and wife Dawn. Brian is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to HP Metro West, Wickenburg.

Shaelee Marie Echeverria – 7 lbs., 13 oz., 20¾ inches. Born Sept. 2 at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center, Glendale, to Lea and Phillip Echeverria. Lea is a police communications dispatcher in Phoenix.

Alix Debra Craft – 6 lbs., 10 oz., 19 inches. Born Sept. 11 at Flagstaff Medical Center to Officer Mace Craft and wife, Amy. Mace is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to HP D-2, Flagstaff.

OBITUARIES

Ernest J. Rumpel, 81, passed away Aug. 28 in La Crosse, Wis. Mr. Rumpel was the father of Sharon Vaughn, an administrative services officer with Research and Planning.

Darlene K. Inman, 62, passed away Sept. 8 in Tucson. She was the wife of retired DPS Officer Cratis "Radar" Inman.



Who Is She?

As a young girl, her positive attitude spoke volumes about her personality. Today at DPS that smile is furnished without hesitation as she goes about her daily responsibilities in Phoenix.

Who Is She?

Identify this civilian employee correctly and you will be eligible to win a polo shirt courtesy of the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona (AHPA).

Interdepartmental e-mail entries should be addressed to Art Coughanour, badge number 3131,

Internet entries should be sent to acoughanour@dps.state.az.us.

Interdepartmental mail should go to The Digest, P.O. Box 6638, Phoenix, AZ 85005.

August contest

There were no correct answers submitted for the *Digest's* "Who Is She?" contest for August. The young girl with the confident smile was Judi Wagner, a data entry operator with RMIN who works out of the District 12 office in Prescott. As a result, Judi will receive a free polo shirt courtesy of the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona.

Lifesaving Awards ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Jan. 7 morning near the Four Corners area, Beck and Smith learned that a man conducting water surveys in the area had stepped into a sink hole and had sunk to his chest in quicksand and near-freezing water.

With the temperature hovering in the 20s, several unsuccessful attempts were made to remove the U.S. Geological Survey employee, but these efforts caused him to sink further into the quicksand. During these initial attempts, medical crews began to administer an IV to slow the onset of hypothermia that was quite possible because of the near 20-degree temperature and the accompanying brisk winds.

Recognizing that time was critical, the two Highway Patrol officers entered the creek bed and used wood and other materials from the surrounding area to stabilize the individual and the area around him. Beck and Smith spent two hours in the freezing

water and were finally able to remove enough sand and mud which allowed the victim to be lifted out of the hole with the assistance of four other men.

Andersson's rescue of a suicidal man March 18 provided some pretty anxious moments, not only for the Highway Patrol officer but for some truck drivers as well.

When Andersson approached the subject who was sitting in a parked vehicle along Interstate 10 near Buckeye, the man bolted from the vehicle and ran into the roadway, nearly being struck by two passing semis. The man then began running down the interstate before Andersson was able to tackle and subdue him. A short time later, Andersson was able to convince the man to seek voluntary commitment to a treatment facility.

On May 9, Petculescu and Bond responded to a suicidal man threatening to jump from the 16th Street overpass onto I-10.

While Bond ran a traffic break on the freeway below, Petculescu went to the top of the overpass and struck up a conversation with the suicidal man. After learning that the subject was under the influence of an illegal substance, Petculescu went to his patrol car and returned with bolt cutters and a tow strap. He cut a hole in the chain link fence and succeeded in wrapping his tow strap around the subject, squeezing him tightly to the fence.

After the Phoenix Fire Department arrived with a bucket truck, Bond and a firefighter were hoisted and were able to take the impaired suicidal man safely into custody.

A little psychology went a long way in Wilkins' effort to prevent a man from jumping off the 48th Street overpass onto a freeway section of Interstate 10.

After having eastbound freeway traffic closed, Wilkins approached the man who said his life was "worthless." Wilkins, a drug recognition expert, determined that the man was under the influence of drugs.

Wilkins then took the opportunity to make up a series of his own problems to share with the man. After some 20 minutes, the subject began to feel sorry for Officer Wilkins and was talked out of jumping.

The Department also presented Civilian Lifesaving Awards to Bryan Korus, Jaron Shain, Timothy Roden, Jon Koering, Steve Jimenez and Ross Dia.

Citizen Commendation Awards went to Brad Johnson, Bryan Barnhart, Edward Van Sant, Luke Horton and the Phoenix College Phlebotomy Program.

Drunken bear prefers local brew

A black bear passed out at a campground near Seattle this summer after draining 36 cans of a Washington state brew, according to the Reuters News Service.

"We noticed a bear sleeping on the lawn and wondered what was going on until we discovered there were a lot of beer cans lying around," a Baker Lake Resort worker told Reuters.

The beer-guzzling bear, about two years old, apparently applied claws and teeth to open the cans after breaking into coolers belonging to area campers.

The bear apparently was somewhat selective about his brew of choice. He tried a mass-marketed beer, but quickly switched to a local ale and stuck with it during his drinking binge.

Wildlife agents chased the bear away only to see it return the next day. They then set a trap using as bait some doughnuts, honey and, of course, two cans of beer.

The beer bear was captured and relocated.

Serving Our Country



NATHAN BORQUEZ

Lance Cpl. Nathan Borquez of the U.S. Marine Corps is serving with the 3rd Battalion/Lima Co. near Fallujah, Iraq. He is the son of Sgt. Pete Borquez of the Department's Special Operations Unit.

DPS employees wishing to feature their son/daughter in the Digest's Serving Our Country feature should send a photo along with a short narrative to Art Coughanour at Mail Drop 1200 or e-mail acoughanour@dps.state.az.us with the photo and information.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Down the Highways

October 1969

Eduard A. Vitolins, a Yuma accountant, was appointed to the Law Enforcement Merit System Council Oct. 2 by Gov. Jack Williams. Vitolins succeeds Howard R. Gwynn, also a Yuma businessman, who resigned after serving 17 years on the council.

October 1974

A large number of DPS officers were part of an intensive security effort deployed by the U.S. Secret Service during the Oct. 21 meeting of President Gerald Ford and Mexico's President Luis Echeverria in southern Arizona.

More than 400 officers from DPS, the U.S. Secret Service, the FBI, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and the Nogales Police Department worked the security detail along with Mexican law enforcement authorities.

October 1979

Four members of a central Phoenix chapter of the Dirty Dozen outlaw motorcycle gang were arrested after assaulting an off-duty DPS officer, the *Phoenix Gazette* reported in its Oct. 1 edition.

DPS Officer Jeff Gordinier suffered a fractured cheekbone in the scuffle with the bikers at a Camelback Road establishment.

The incident began when a bartender refused to serve one of the bikers. The patron jumped over the counter and began assaulting the lounge employee.

Gordinier intervened, identified himself as a police officer, and was struck from behind at least five times. He was treated and released at an area hospital.

October 1984

A man who recently had completed pro-

bation for abducting two children was arrested by DPS Officer Tim Fitch on suspicion of kidnapping a 2-year-old boy from Kiddie Land at the Arizona State Fair Oct. 27.

Fitch arrested the man after he chased him outside an entrance to the fairgrounds. Bystanders, who alerted Fitch, said the boy was "hollering and screaming" when being carried away by the man who only a few days earlier had completed a three-year probation for the kidnapping of two Phoenix-area toddlers in 1981.

A Sierra Vista man accused of threatening DPS Officer Steven Lee with a rattlesnake pleaded innocent Oct. 23 to charges of assault with a deadly weapon and other crimes.

The suspect was arrested Oct. 8 after bringing a live rattlesnake into the emergency room of the Sierra Vista Community Hospital. After the man threatened the officer with the snake, Lee killed the reptile. The man had accompanied a friend who had been bitten by the snake to the hospital when the confrontation occurred.

October 1989

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Johnny Garcia, 33, was killed in the line of duty Oct. 14 when his patrol car struck loose gravel and rolled three times before striking another car and a tree.

Officer Garcia was responding to a report of a drunken driver whose car was stuck in a right-of-way fence near the Picacho/I-10 interchange. Officer Garcia was passing another car on S.R. 84 near Casa Grande when his patrol car struck loose gravel.

DPS Officer Harold Sanders said four men were arrested on various narcotics-related charges after DPS officers found 800 pounds of cocaine, worth about \$155 million on the street, inside two vehicles that were under surveillance.

The cars became targets after two planes landed on a dirt strip near Tucson. DPS Sgt. Gamble Dick said the officers seized the planes and vehicles along with the contraband during the Oct. 22 bust.

October 1994

A Phoenix man, who fired at least six shots at DPS Officer Mike Wischmann, was critically wounded by the Highway Patrol officer's return fire during a gun battle Oct. 23 within the city limits of Winslow. The 28-year-old suspect was hit three times in the shootout which occurred in a Winslow residential area.

The incident began after the suspect sped away from a traffic stop and started firing at Wischmann during the ensuing high-speed pursuit. While apparently trying to change weapons, the suspect lost control of his vehicle and spun into the front yard of a residence. After crashing, the suspect continued to fire at Wischmann as his patrol car approached.

Wischmann, who stopped his patrol car about 15 feet from the suspect's crashed vehicle, returned fire through his windshield striking the suspect.

Investigators believed the shooting was at least the seventh in the Winslow/Holbrook area involving DPS officers during the past six years.